

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 10612

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FOR GARRISON FROM MATLOCK

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OGEN
SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

1. RE BUCHANAN TRANSFER (PARA 4, STATE 171090), IS THERE TRAFFIC OF WHICH WE ARE UNAWARE? TRANSFER ORDERS (STATE 170290) REFER TO SEPTEMBER AS ETA BUCHANAN, AND TOM HAS PROPOSED SEPT 11 ARRIVAL IN MOSCOW, WHICH LOOKS OK TO US. I DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHY WE HAVE TO WAIT FOR ISSUANCE OF THE COMMISSION BEFORE APPROACHING THE SOVIETS. INDEED, THIS WOULD SEEM TECHNICALLY IMPROPER, SINCE CONULAR CONVENTION STATES THAT APPROVAL MUST BE OBTAINED "PRIOR TO APPOINTMENT." MY CONCERN IS SIMPLY THAT TIME IS GETTING SHORT, AND SOVIETS (PERHAPS EVEN UNWITTINGLY) CAN FOUL UP ALL SCHEDULES BY DELAY IN GRANTING FORMAL APPROVAL IF WE DON'T GO AHEAD AND TAKE CARE OF THIS. CERTAINLY WE WILL HAVE TO HAVE FORMAL APPROVAL BEFORE WE CAN APPLY FOR VISA. WE DON'T HAVE FILES HERE ON HOW WE HANDLED NEUBERT/GLEYSTEEN SWITCH, BUT IF MEMORY SERVES, WE SENT NOTE 2-3 MONTHS IN ADVANCE OF NEUBERT'S ARRIVAL. THIS WAS IN 1974 WHEN RELATIONS WERE MUCH BETTER. WHY NOT JUST SEND US A CABLE WITH INSTRUCTIONS TO SEEK APPROVAL? PRECISE DATE NEED NOT BE GIVEN.

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2. RE SECOND PARA 4, STATE 171090, ALL CANDIDATES MENTIONED FINE, WITH WEISZ AND CARTER JUST THE SORT OF YOUNG OFFICERS WE SHOULD IN ANY EVENT TRY TO GET HERE EARLY IN THEIR CAREERS. ANY COMBINATION OF JUDY MANDEL, HER HUSBAND, WEISZ AND CARTER OR TWO CONSULAR SLOTS WOULD BE OK WITH US (WE WILL RELY ON YOUR JUDGMENT REGARDING INDIVIDUAL ABILITIES SINCE WE KNOW NONE OF THEM). HOWEVER, IF JUDY AND HER HUSBAND

ARE ASSIGNED TO THE TWO SLOTS, WE PROBABLY SHOULD TRY TO MOVE ONE OF THEM OUT OF CONSULAR ASAP SINCE TWO SPOUSES IN SAME SECTION CREATE MAJOR PROBLEMS IN ARRANGING LEAVE, ETC. SPEED IN ACTUAL MOVES IS ALSO CRITICAL FACTOR. WE ARE SURE YOU ARE FULLY AWARE OF ALL RELEVANT FACTORS AND WILL DEPEND ON YOU TO GET US GOOD OFFICERS JUST AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

3. IF YOU SEE MARTY, LET HER KNOW WE ARE THINKING OF HER, AND HOPE HER MOTHER IMPROVES SOON.

4. WE, TOO, ARE PUZZLED THAT MINISTER OF FINANCE WOULD BE SENDING MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT OF EXIM BANK. IN OUR EXPERIENCE QUESTIONS RELATING TO FOREIGN FINANCE LIE WITHIN THE RESPONSIBILITY OF FOREIGN TRADE BANK AND ITS PARENT - GOSBANK. OUR CURIOSITY IS AROUSED, AND WE WILL LOOK FORWARD TO LEARNING WHAT IT WAS ALL ABOUT.

5. ASSUME YOU HAVE NOW SEEN MOSCOW 10533 REGARDING MEETING WITH KUZNETSOV OF UPDK. IT LOOKS AS IF THINGS MAY RPT MAY NOW MOVE SATISFACTORILY ON THE MORE URGENT MATTERS. IF SO, IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL TO PASS A FEW WORDS OF PRAISE TO BESSMERTNYKH. WE'LL GIVE SIGNAL IF AND WHEN WE CONSIDER JUSTIFIED.
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